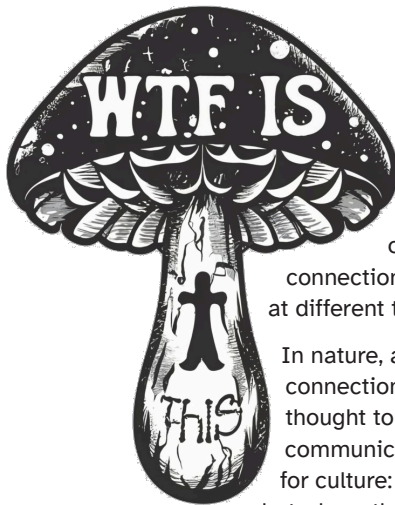




MYCELIUM PARISH NEWS 2023



THE MYCELIUM

is a term used by Daisy Campbell to describe an underground counterculture of artists, musicians and other creative people. It isn't a formal organisation, rather it's a way of mapping the loose connections between certain people who have collaborated at different times, or just enjoy each other's work.

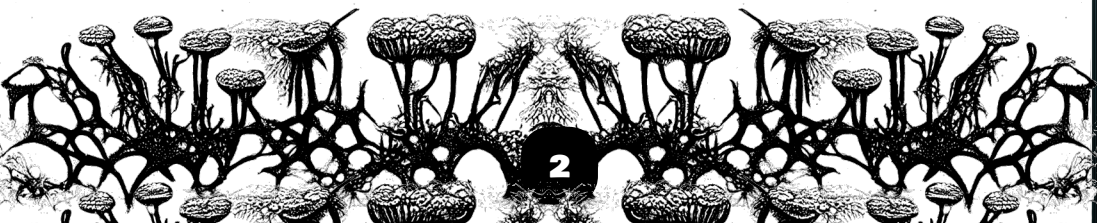
In nature, a mycelial network is made from the inter-connections that grow between fungi. These networks are thought to link trees in forests, allowing them to communicate and share resources. It is a brilliant metaphor for culture: the fungal threads are often hidden underground, but where they cross, a mushroom can appear.

This zine contains a list of art and events produced across our mycelium during 2023. For items that are online, we've added our own links via a URL shortener **eris.orbific.com** to make them easier to type.

Since you're reading this, *you're* now part of the mycelium. If you make anything in 2024 that seems to fit the sort of things we're into – mushrooms, discordianism and high-weirdness – then send them to us: James is james@orbific.com and Dan is dan@sumption.org.

"If we cut off our head or stop our heart, we're finished. A mycelial network has no head and no brain. Fungi, like plants, are decentralised organisms. There are no operational centres, no capital cities, no seats of government. Control is dispersed: mycelial coordination takes place both everywhere at once and nowhere in particular."

Entangled Life – Merlin Sheldrake





A letter from the vicars



arewell to 2023! It's been an exciting year, and we've loved reaching out to everyone to find out what they've been up to. We're likely to have missed something important - we kicked ourselves about various things we missed in the last issue - but we do our best.

While compiling this zine takes a lot of work, we believe it's worth the effort. We found out about a lot of things we would have otherwise missed, and we hope that you discover new things too. With the changes in social media, it's become harder to find out about what is happening. It's more important than ever to tell people about the art and events you enjoy, especially those that don't have a marketing budget and mainstream promotion.

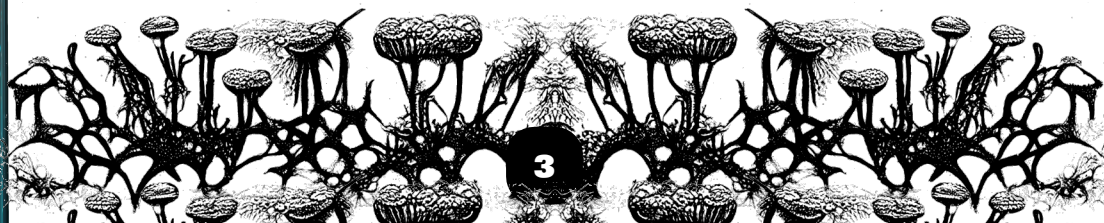
At the end of compiling this, Dan and James both feel inspired and excited about what is to come in 2024. Now that we've finished this edition, it's time to open a new document and begin working on the next one. Enjoy this issue, and we'll see you again next year!



Vicars: The Walker & The Pillock

Contributors: The Mycelium

AIrt: The Mycoleum - mycoleum.etsy.com



THINGS TO READ

online

🏠 Living in a RAW world

Written for Maybe Day 2023, Bobby Campbell's long-form article *Living in a RAW World* is a history of Discordianism, tracing out some of the weird connections and featuring Dan Brown, the X-Files and Liverpool Arts Lab. It's a great background to this magazine, and includes some incredible details. A must-read.

<https://weirdverse.com/living-in-a-raw-world/>

🌟 <https://eris.orbific.com/100>

🏠 Mycelium Parish News 2022

If you missed the 2022 Parish News and want to catch up, it's available here:

<https://archive.org/details/mycelium-parish-news-2022>

🌟 <https://eris.orbific.com/101>

🏠 Disco Road

The Ephemeral Man has produced four issues of the Disco Rd Zine this year, with a fifth promised by the end of 2023. PDF copies are released alongside a short 'audio oddity'. Contributors have included Brenton Clutterbuck, Adam Gorightly, Bobby Campbell and Paul Watson.

🌟 <https://eris.orbific.com/202>

You can also keep up to date at the blog:

<https://wyrddaze.wordpress.com/>

🌟 <https://eris.orbific.com/102>

🏠 Appropriation of the Chaos Star

Dave Lee wrote a short piece for the new network *chaosmagick.com* about the confusion between the chaos star and the Eurasianist star.

<https://chaosmagick.com/c-star-vs-e-star-a-quick-rundown/>

🌟 <https://eris.orbific.com/107>



⚡ Joe Lycett vs the Church of Burn

In the run-up to the 2022 World Cup in Qatar, Joe Lycett criticised David Beckham for working with the homophobic host nation. Lycett claimed that he had shredded £10,000 in cash when Beckham did not pull out, but later said this had been faked. The Church of Burn, who believe in the sacred aspects of currency destruction, described this as “the most terrible crime in the history of humankind”, and released a long essay in response.

<https://jonone100.medium.com/openlettertojoe-d9888981dc77>

🌟 <https://eris.orbific.com/103>

⚡ Glitch Experiments

The Empty Cup's Glitch Experiments originally appeared in the Liverpool Arts Lab zine, *Bodge*, and continue to be published online.

<https://openings.glitchexperiments.com>

🌟 <https://eris.orbific.com/104>

⚡ The Art of Julian Dourando

Artist Julian Dourando's work takes inspiration from sources including 17th century woodcuts, hermetic philosophy, gnostic mythology, the writings of Charles Fort, historic witchcraft and alchemy. In November some of his paintings – along with additional artwork by his alter ego Pyewackett – were on show at the Airy Fairy shop in Sheffield.

https://www.instagram.com/julian_dourado

🌟 <https://eris.orbific.com/105>

<https://www.instagram.com/pyewackettmakes/>

🌟 <https://eris.orbific.com/106>

⚡ There is Nothing Left to Say (On The Invisibles)

If you measure the importance of a comic book by the things it has inspired, then Grant Morrison's masterwork *The Invisibles* is one of the most significant. The latest epic response is Travis Hedge Coke's huge, ongoing work of criticism *There is Nothing Left to Say (On The Invisibles)*. Intensely personal and never failing to grapple with the comic's flaws, this ongoing work is powerful and essential.

<https://comic-watch.com/news/there-is-nothing-left-to-say-on-the-invisibles>

🌟 <https://eris.orbific.com/108>

⚡ Verity in the New York Times

Verity Spott's poem *On Jasmine* appeared in the New York Times in April

<https://www.nytimes.com/2023/04/13/magazine/poem-on-jasmine.html>

🌟 <https://eris.orbific.com/111>

⚡ Magic Witchcraft, Chaos and Beyond

Anwen at Airy Fairy and Dave Lee have founded the mostly-Zoom-based school, *Magic, Witchcraft, Chaos and Beyond*. This year's courses were 'Prosperity Magic for the Self-Employed' and 'Qabalistic Pathworkings'. You can find MWCB at:

https://www.airyfairry.org/index.php?route=product/category&path=59_86

★ <https://eris.orbific.com/109>

Airy-Fairy also have a Magical Herbalism course which will be ongoing on Saturdays in-person at the Sheffield shop from January to April – get in touch with them to learn more..

⚡ The Dream Fishing Society

Kate Alderton's website for the *Dream Fishing Society* has had a spring clean, with blogs and dream treasures being added, including posts on mugwort and dream-seeding. There are also links to interviews that Kate has given.

<https://dreamfishingsociety.com/>

★ <https://eris.orbific.com/112>

For an occasional newsletter, sign up here:

<http://eepurl.com/gytm6L>

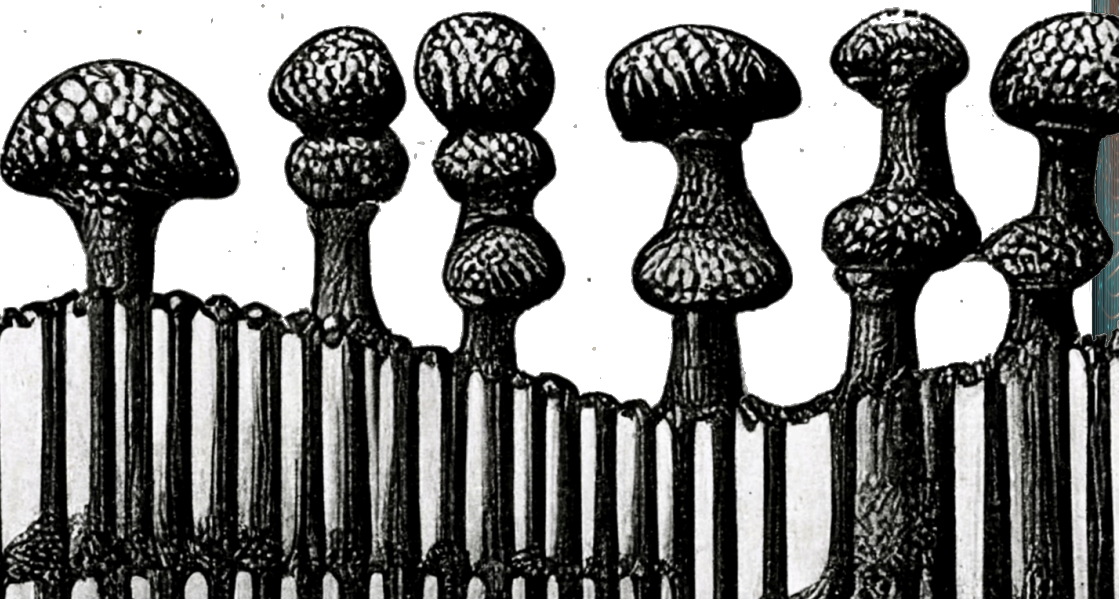
★ <https://eris.orbific.com/113>

⚡ RAW Illumination

RAW illumination features a daily post about subjects related to Robert Anton Wilson and Robert Shea. It's an essential resource for keeping up with what's happening in the wider world of Discordianism

<http://www.rawillumination.net/>

★ <http://eris.orbific.com/09>



THINGS TO READ

books & zines

♠ The Sing-Along-A-Wicker-Man Scrapbook

David Bramwell has published the *The Sing-Along-A-Wicker-Man Scrapbook*. Subtitled 'In Search of the Pagan Heart of Britain', this book uses the film as a starting point to explore folk horror and paganism. It's a fun, charming book.

<https://oddfellowscasino.bandcamp.com/merch/the-singalong-a-wicker-man-scrapbook-in-search-of-the-pagan-heart-of-britain>

♠ <https://eris.orbific.com/114>

Another wonderful piece of writing about the Wicker Man anniversary is by Joel Morris from the band *Candidate*. A group of locals and visitors on the Isle of Whithorn came together to burn a wicker man on the concrete block where the film's climactic sequence was filmed. Morris, invited to perform songs from the soundtrack, found himself in the middle of an event with nobody in charge but instead "a proper atmosphere of misrule that is essential for May Day revels, and totally absent from every festival I've ever been at".

<https://joelmorris.substack.com/p/they-will-not-fail>

♠ <https://eris.orbific.com/115>

♠ Tomorrow's Here Today by Ian Broudie

Ian Broudie's memoir *Tomorrow's Here Today* features stories of his life, the Lightning Seeds and that song, talking about how *Three Lions* went to number one four times. There's also a section about Broudie's involvement with the 1976 *Illuminatus!* play.

♠ Tokens by Rachel O'Dwyer

Rachel O'Dwyer's book *Tokens* looks at money and what it is becoming in the Internet age. It spends a few pages talking about Jon Harris and the *Church of Burn*. It's good to see economists taking money-burning seriously.

As part of her promotion for the book, O'Dwyer discussed money burning on RTE:

<https://www.rte.ie/radio/lyricfm/clips/22294724/>

♠ <https://eris.orbific.com/116>



🏠 **Fascinating Folklore**

A collaboration between writer John Reppion and comics artist PJ Holden, *Fascinating Folklore* features one page comic strips alongside short essays from Reppion. There is an eclectic range of topics, going beyond the usual folklore themes.

<https://www.moorereppion.com/fascinating-folklore-on-comicon-com/>

🌟 <https://eris.orbific.com/117>

🏠 **The KLF: Chaos, Magic and the Band who Burned a Million Pounds by John Higgs**

The KLF book has lived its life in reverse, starting as a self-published ebook and 10 years later having a hardback publication, this time augmented with 13,000 words of commentary. This book is one of the big mushrooms on the mycelium. If you've not read it, you should definitely find a copy.

🏠 **Love and Let Die by John Higgs**

John Higgs' 2022 book on the Beatles and Bond, *Love and Let Die*, was published in Canada and America, with the paperback version appearing in the UK. It was reviewed by the Wall Street Journal, who described it as "a rambling and often brilliant meander through the British male psyche".

<https://www.wsj.com/articles/love-and-let-die-review-fleming-vs-the-fab-four-11675441270?mod=djembooks>

🌟 <https://eris.orbific.com/118>

🏠 **Pessimism is for Lightweights By Salena Godden**

A beautiful hardback edition containing 30 of Salena Godden's poems was published in February by Rough Trade Books. The title poem is also featured translated into Old English and back. The book is introduced by John Higgs.

<https://roughtradebooks.com/products/pessimism-is-for-lightweights-hardback-salena-godden>

🌟 <https://eris.orbific.com/120>

🏠 **Weird Walk**

For the last few years, Weird Walk have published some gorgeous zines, and this year brought their first hardback book, a guide to some of the UK's best weird walking. The essays about each individual place are entertaining and informative, whether you're an adventurer or an armchair explorer.

<https://shop.weirdwalk.co.uk/products/ww-book>

🌟 <https://eris.orbific.com/119>

🏠 **Electric Tibet by Ben Graham**

Coming in the first part of 2024 is *Electric Tibet*, a novella which forms the first part

of Ben Graham's American Underground work. This volume is an exploration of California Counterculture and the 1967 human be-in. Keep an eye on Ben's Urban Spaceman mailing list for updates.

<https://bengraham23.substack.com/>

★ <https://eris.orbific.com/132>

⚡ Primordial Chaos by Dave Lee

By the time you're reading this, Dave Lee's forthcoming book, *Primordial Chaos* will have been published by Nikki Wyrd's press, Universe Machine. This is a collection of shorter writings, previously published in venues such as Chaos International and Pagan News, alongside publicly-shared spells and new essays. The book launch in early December was a hybrid event at Airy Fairy, featuring in-person talks and a workshop

⚡ Trials of Arthur by CJ Stone

A revised edition of CJ Stone's book on Arthur Pendragon, *The Trials Of Arthur*, has now been published. It tells the story of an "ex-soldier, ex-builder, ex-biker who had some sort of a brain storm back in 1986 and decided he was King Arthur". The story is set against the background of the road protest movement in the 90s. CJ Stone has taken the opportunity to rewrite a number of chapters, adding about 20,000 words and making this the definitive edition.

<https://christopherjamesstone.wordpress.com/2023/07/19/why-i-rewrote-the-trials-of-arthur/>

★ <https://eris.orbific.com/120>

⚡ Three Musketeers

The *Musketeers vs Cthulhu* comic is a collaboration between John D. Chadwick, Claudia Christian and Chris McAuley, which was set in the Nightfall Games RPG universe. The comic is based on a role-playing game that has just launched via Kickstarter.

<https://bbvproductions.co.uk/products/Claudia-Christians-Musketeers-Vs-Cthulhu-PDF-COMIC-p603741217>

★ <https://eris.orbific.com/203>

⚡ Northampton Arts Lab

In celebration of Alan Moore's 70th birthday, Northampton Arts Lab released three books: *Comic Zero*, an anthology comic; *Dark Horses*, a science fiction anthology; and *Project Fear*, a horror zine. We don't have links, but these should have emerged by the time the *Mycelium Parish News* reaches print.



⚡ Hilaritus Press

The Hilaritus Press programme reprinting Robert Anton Wilson's works has continued.

March 2023 brought *The Walls Came Tumbling Down*, an as-yet unfilmed script written by Wilson, with this edition featuring a new introduction and afterword, as well as a transcript of Alan Moore's eulogy for RAW, delivered in London in March 2007.

TSOG: The thing that ate the Constitution was a collection of Wilson's essays, which also included a new forward from Bobby Campbell, a new afterword from Steven James Pratt (aka "Fly"), and a long essay from RAW expert, R. Michael Johnson.

In July came *Lion of Light*, a collection of articles showing Wilson's perspective on "notorious scoundrel and mystic", Aleister Crowley, including the first appearance of Wilson's analysis of Thelema in *Do What Thou Wilt*. There was also an introduction by Lon Milo Duquette and a forward by Richard Kaczynski, along with four additional essays written for the volume.

⚡ Fated Zine

Fated by Slim Smith is a 24-page A5 collage zine. It features images that first appeared in Liverpool Arts Lab's Bodge magazine alongside material from Surrealerpool's 'Patastrophe! mag. £4.50 including UK postage.

<https://slimsmith.com/fated.html>

⚡ <https://eris.orbific.com/126>

⚡ Hwaet!

The UK has a number of folklore-related zines. *Hellebore* continues to produce fascinating issues, but our favourite is Leeds-based *Hwaet*. Two issues came out this year, and the crew have also put on some decent in-person events.

<https://www.hwaetzine.co.uk/>

⚡ <https://eris.orbific.com/127>

⚡ Mu Magazine

2023 brought two new issues of *Mu*, which was originally inspired by the Arts Lab movement. It's a good-looking magazine and well worth checking out.

<https://mu-magazine.com/product/mu-issue-8-digital-download/>

⚡ <https://eris.orbific.com/128>

<https://mu-magazine.com/product/mu-issue-9-digital-download/>

⚡ <https://eris.orbific.com/129>

Peakrill Press

It's been another exciting year for Peakrill Press, which has broadened its range of publications, and completed multiple kickstarters, most recently for the *Lost Doctor Annual* (see the *Lost Doctor* section for more information about this).

🏰 The Inner City Round Walk of Sheffield

Terry Howard's tour of Sheffield's inner suburbs explores Sheffield's industrial heritage and ancient settlements. This edition of the book includes new maps and illustrations by local artist Andy Cropper.

<https://peakrill.etsy.com/uk/listing/1507783610/>

🏰 <https://eris.orbific.com/121>

🏰 Krill Journal

Krill was an open submission zine, featuring a variety of entries from across the mycelium. The contents include a guide to microanimistic shamanism from Aitch Nicol, Vicar James's tiny short-story anthology Fishscale, Lesley Thurston-Brown writing about toothworms, poetry from Jayaprakash Satyamurthy, alongside writing from Hubert Huzzah, Jeff Merrifield and more. Physical copies are sold out, but cheap PDF versions are available.

<https://peakrill.itch.io/krill-journal>

🏰 <https://eris.orbific.com/122>

🏰 Dregs of Rudetown comic

Chris Barker's Dregs of Rudetown comic books feature stories about Dregs and Dave who live in Rudetown, in an alternative universe very similar to Britain in the 1990s. Filled with nostalgia about the days before mobile phones, the second issue was set at the Rudestock music festival.

<https://peakrill.etsy.com/uk/listing/1520301000/>

🏰 <https://eris.orbific.com/123>

🏰 King Arthur Vs Devil Kitty

A picture book telling the epic story of when King Arthur went to Europe and fought a killer kitten. Adapted from the 12th Century French story of the Chat Palu, Dan Sumption and illustrator Maximillian Hartley produced a book for adults and children, including an essay from mediaeval scholar Dr. Laura Chuhan Campbell to provide historical context. In line with Peakrill's gaming roots, there are stats for bringing the Devil Kitten into roleplaying games.

<https://peakrill.etsy.com/uk/listing/1590519088/>

🏰 <https://eris.orbific.com/125>



GOTH

2023 was when Goth returned from the dead. The year began with the *Horror Show* exhibition at Somerset House. Then the reclusive Siouxsie Sioux toured for the first time since 2009, with The Cure, The Sisters Of Mercy, The Mission and The Cult all playing large venues worldwide. Mocked and maligned for decades, this predominantly '80s subculture never went away; it just went underground. But suddenly the mainstream media was reappraising Goth in a favourable light, casting it as ripe for rediscovery in these darkly apocalyptic times.

The year also saw the publication of three major books on the subject. *The Art Of Darkness: The History Of Goth* by music writer and Membranes frontman John Robb; *Season Of The Witch: The Book Of Goth* by music journalist turned noir novelist Cathi Unsworth; and *Goth: A History* by former Cure drummer Lol Tolhurst. Of the three, *Season Of The Witch* is the most accessible, setting the scene in the context of Thatcher's Britain. Robb's book is encyclopaedic and exhaustive, while Tolhurst offers a subjective insider's view from one of the movement's musical instigators.

Goth grew out of punk but embraced electronic dance music while channelling the dark side of '60s psychedelia. Partly a response to Cold War fears and partly an excuse for some serious dressing up, it wasn't as identikit or gloomy as stereotyping suggests. Goths rebelled against the pastel-coloured, health-kick, up-and-at-em mindset of the Thatcher-Reagan years with a romantic, cobwebbed lethargy, alongside plenty of old-fashioned hedonism and tongue-in-cheek humour. The subculture also provided a context for experiments with gender and sexuality before such matters were widely discussed.

As the original Goths become respectably middle-aged, their misspent youth inevitably becomes social history. It's worth disinterring.

by Ben Graham



🎧 The Banksy Story

BBC Sounds released *The Banksy Story* by James Peak, which John Higgs described as ‘a love letter to a trickster spirit’. Higgs turned up as an interviewee in several episodes. As over-familiar as Banksy can sometimes feel, this show found some fresh angles.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/brand/m001nwhs>

🌟 <https://eris.orbific.com/130>

🎧 F23 podcast

We’ve only had one podcast from Pope Flag-dag the Brave in 2023, but it was a banger, featuring an interview with Prop Anon, who is currently working on a biography of Robert Anton Wilson, which is forthcoming from Strange Attractor/MIT Press. Some grand episodes are in the works and should be appearing soon.

<https://www.buzzsprout.com/1047874>

🌟 <https://eris.orbific.com/12>

🎧 How to protect yourself from a coronation

Obviously, the only monarch we acknowledge round here is King Arthur Pendragon. There was a coronation in 2023 for Prince Charles, and it was a strange event. Simon Indelicate got together with magicians Rob Rider Hill and Cat Vincent to discuss the event’s magical aspects and how to project yourself from them.

<https://orbific.com/politics/podcast-how-to-protect-yourself-from-a-coronation/>

🌟 <https://eris.orbific.com/131>

🎧 A Good Read

Salena Godden’s novel *Mrs Death Misses Death* was featured on the BBC Radio 4 show *A Good Read* where it was discussed by poet Nikita Gill

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/m001ng9x>

🌟 <https://eris.orbific.com/133>

🏠 The Inadvisable Trapdoor

Andrew O'Neill's *The Inadvisable Trapdoor* is like no other podcast we've listened to. Each episode brings a mix of comedy, interviews with occultists, and an ongoing investigation into whether Jack the Ripper was, in fact, a young Winston Churchill. Seven episodes came out in 2023, including interviews with Marco Visconti and Tim Arnold. Andrew has also continued doing accessible online shows at a time when many people have dropped them, as well as appearing in the new TV series of *Good Omens*.

<https://shows.acast.com/the-inadvisable-trapdoor>

🌟 <https://eris.orbific.com/134>

🏠 Ultraculture

Jason Louv's *Ultraculture* has featured a range of interesting interviewees including the late Antero Ali, Douglas Rushkoff and David Keenan, author of *Memorial Device* and *England's Hidden Reverse*.

<https://jasonlouv.libsyn.com/ep-167-englands-hidden-reverse-with-david-keenan>

🌟 <https://eris.orbific.com/136>

<https://jasonlouv.libsyn.com>

🌟 <https://eris.orbific.com/137>

🏠 Richard Metzger on Prop Anon Podcast

One of the main influences for the *Mycelium Parish News* is the epic counterculture readers that were put out by *Disinformation Press* in the 90s. These books thrummed with ideas and gave readers a connection to a whole different world. The publisher of Disinformation Press, Richard Metzger, gave a long interview on the Prop Anon podcast. Metzger talks about his adventures, Robert Anton-Wilson, and the importance of cheap real estate for the underground.

<https://rss.com/podcasts/propanonpodcast/1087755/>

🌟 <https://eris.orbific.com/138>

<https://rss.com/podcasts/propanonpodcast/>

🌟 <https://eris.orbific.com/139>

🏠 Strange Exiles

Strange Exiles is a podcast about "ideas, identity and ideology". During 2023 this continued to release fascinating discussions and interviews, most recently with a return from futurist Josh Ellis.

<https://open.spotify.com/show/1qD6n1RfplyE2EgE3LOORN>

🌟 <https://eris.orbific.com/140>

🏠 The Incident At Ong's Hat

Joseph Matheny was the artist behind the Ong's Hat hoax, which involved Nick Herbert and Hakim Bey. The BBC produced a drama based upon the Ong's Hat mystery, which starred Matheny and blurred the lines between reality and fiction.



Highly recommended.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m001hg09>

🌟 <https://eris.orbific.com/141>

🏠 Uncanny Landscapes

For several years now, Justin Hopper's *Uncanny Landscapes* project has explored the intersections of place writing and hauntology. The music is well-chosen, and Hopper is a good interviewer, giving the listener an insight into each guest's background and work.

<https://uncannylandscapes.substack.com/>

🌟 <https://eris.orbific.com/142>

🏠 Team Human

Douglas Rushkoff's podcast continues with a range of guests, including an interview with Prop Anon/Gabriel Kennedy about his forthcoming biography of Robert Anton Wilson, *Chapel Perilous*. The podcast series consists of mostly-optimistic interviews with people who feel it is still possible to change the world for the better.

<https://www.teamhuman.fm/>

🌟 <https://eris.orbific.com/143>

🏠 Adventures in Nutopia

A second season of David Bramwell's *Adventures in Nutopia* podcast has launched. This delightfully-edited podcast has looked at topics such as dreaming and healing with sound, featuring a wide range of people, including Philip Carr-Gomm, Richard Norris and Kate Alderton. If you've not heard it, season one's episode *Come on Pilgrim* is a great retelling of the 2019 Cerne-to-CERN pilgrimage.

<https://open.spotify.com/episode/1jRiyzBWUW8E9NIeyRIVH?si=947a76f872544cbf>

🌟 <https://eris.orbific.com/144>

<https://open.spotify.com/show/0bBtTtrenATW3tyBMmke8l>

🌟 <https://eris.orbific.com/145>

🏠 Prometheus Rising Audiobook

In February, the audiobook of Robert Anton Wilson's *Prometheus Rising* was released, read by Oliver Senton, who played Wilson in the *Cosmic Trigger* play. Senton has also narrated the *Cosmic Trigger* Trilogy

🏠 Hilaritus Press Podcast

Alongside their reprints of Robert Anton Wilson books, Hilaritus Press produce a podcast featuring interviewees relevant to RAW fans. Guests in 2023 included Kevin Kelly and Bobby Campbell, but a particular highlight was their Maybe Day interview with Rev Ivan Stang from the *Church of the Subgenius*.

<https://www.hilaritaspress.com/podcasts/>

🌟 <https://eris.orbific.com/13>



⚡ This Podcast is a Ritual

Devin Person decided to become a wizard six years ago, and started out by travelling the New York subway in his wizard robes, with a sign encouraging people to talk to him, “because no one meets a wizard by accident.” He has since moved to Kentucky and set up a regular *Wizard Wednesday* event, transforming his life as well as that of people around him. He releases regular episodes of *This Podcast is a Ritual*, where he talks to other practitioners. This 2019 New York Times article is a lovely introduction:

<https://www.nytimes.com/2019/05/26/nyregion/devin-person-brooklyn-wizard.html>

★ <https://eris.orbific.com/146>

You can find the podcast here

<https://open.spotify.com/episode/5bif9CUWfu7PPIojvc5bb?si=cd46a4fac1c0423f>

★ <https://eris.orbific.com/147>

⚡ John Higgs

John Higgs continued to pop up as a guest on podcasts, where he always manages to find a fresh view on familiar topics. Some of our favourite appearances were:

Talking about Dr Who on the *Comfort Blanket* podcast

<https://shows.acast.com/comfort-blanket/episodes/doctor-who-classic-series-with-john-higgs>

★ <https://eris.orbific.com/148>

Being interviewed about *Love and Let Die* by Richard Herring on the *RHLSTP book club*

<https://www.rhlstp.co.uk/website.cgi?page=podcasts&id=1812>

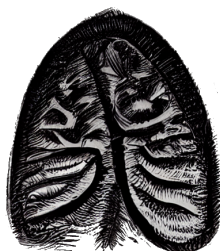
★ <https://eris.orbific.com/149>

He also turned up on the excellent *We Can Be Weirdos* podcast. The highlight (about 75 minutes in) was when he described results-based magic as “Thatcherite”

<https://open.spotify.com/episode/6l6RknkxIV3t33mTRo1gc1?si=adf3ffb6e97c4353>

★ <https://eris.orbific.com/150>

John has also recorded the audiobook of his 2006 biography of Timothy Leary, *I Have America Surrounded*, which John describes as “an outrageously funny book trying to pass itself off as a serious one”. This came out in October and is available in all of the usual places.



The Lost Doctor

The Lost Doctor continues a strange journey through the possibilities of Doctor Who. A fan-made series, this brings together a group of regular collaborators, who continue to produce new episodes. The series explores what might have happened if the Seventh Doctor in 1987 had been cast not as Sylvester McCoy, but rather Ken Campbell, who auditioned at the same time.

As well as producing new episodes, listed below, the *Lost Doctor* crew launched a Kickstarter to fund the *Lost Doctor Annual*. This is an artefact from another universe, a hardback book in the style of a proper Christmas annual, filled with games, stories and comic strips. There's also a brand new website to keep you up to date:

<https://www.lostdoctor.net/>

🏠 <https://eris.orbific.com/151>

🏠 Jules Verne's La Malediction Des Pommes Bleues

The year is 1891. The Doctor visits the Languedoc region of France to check on an old foe and inadvertently creates a mystery for the ages. This episode features Actual Gimpo as Gimpo.

<https://soundcloud.com/the-lost-doctor/la-malediction-des-pommes>

🏠 <https://eris.orbific.com/152>

🏠 Lost in the Wake

The Doctor and Co. take a trip through the dream-like landscape of the Matrix, the repository of all past time and active thought in order to unearth what the mysterious 'Client' is really up to. They're joined by James Joyce, making the episode a riff on *Finnegans Wake*. There are also 'guest appearances' from Charles Fort, Aleister Crowley, the Dadaists, William Blake, Phillip K. Dick and more. This was initially released on Bloomsday 2023 in an attempt to hack *Ulysses* and save Barney Kiernan's pub. Because, why not?

<https://soundcloud.com/the-lost-doctor/lost-in-the-wake>

🏠 <https://eris.orbific.com/153>

🏠 The Transit of Venus

A Christmas Special 2-parter! The Doctor's hunt for a new companion leads the crew to the Ancient Chapel of Toxteth in 1639. Jeremiah Horrocks, astronomy genius and watchmaker's son, is about to make history as the first man to predict and observe the Transit of Venus. However, history is changed with the return of SYNCHRONUS. She brings with her a chilling new foe: The Tick Tock Men! What exactly has Synchronus got planned in orbit around Venus? And who knows where the time goes....?

<https://soundcloud.com/the-lost-doctor/transit-of-venus>

🏠 <https://eris.orbific.com/154>

Cae Mabon

In an oak forest clearing... by a rushing river... near the lake... at the foot of Yr Wyddfa (Mount Snowdon)... is the Cae Mabon Eco-Retreat Centre.

It's been a busy year at Cae Mabon, with a range of activities taking place. Eric has been touring his show *A Wild Man's Dreaming* around the country. This draws on his ten year journey around the world, including time in Central Australia working in Aboriginal communities, through to the coming of Cae Mabon. Various groups have spent time at Cae Mabon, including 'Call to Adventure', a Youth Rites of Passage in association with the Kingfisher Project. For Beltane, eleven men and one woman undertook the *Mabon's Way* pilgrimage, travelling along the most mythically rich 20 miles in Britain, from Dinas Dinlle to Dinas Emrys. A cancellation around Lammas led to a spot of enchanted activism – 'enchantivism' – in the gap.

Cae Mabon Website:

<https://www.caemabon.co.uk/>

🏠 <http://eris.orbific.com/207>

Eric's appearance on the Lumiere podcast, from March:

<https://shows.acast.com/lumierespodcast/episodes/eric-maddern-a-wild-mans-dreaming>

🏠 <http://eris.orbific.com/208>

A November appearance on the SOUL purpose podcast:

<https://shows.acast.com/how-to-find-our-soul-purpose/episodes/eric-maddern-a-man-of-the-woods-with-a-fascinating-story-fro>

🏠 <http://eris.orbific.com/209>

THINGS TO WATCH

Myco

🏠 Breaking Convention

Breaking Convention took place at the University of Exeter in April 2023, and is the largest conference on psychedelics in Europe. All the talks from this year are now online, and include Paul Stamets, Julian Vayne and Merlin Sheldrake. Ru Callendar gave a presentation called *Raving in the Grave*:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HAUPt6eCYCI>

🌟 <https://eris.orbific.com/155>

And there was also one from Daisy Campbell on the *Cerne to CERN pilgrimage*:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sUYGgL7fYHw>

🌟 <https://eris.orbific.com/156>

The full list of videos are available here:

<https://www.youtube.com/@BreakingConvention/videos>

🌟 <https://eris.orbific.com/157>

🏠 Are Mushrooms Trans?

There is a growing interest in mushrooms throughout the country, from foraging to cultivation. Myco Manchester started out growing mushrooms, and have expanded to running workshops and field trips. They are currently building a community mycology lab. We first discovered them through a recording of a talk, *Are Mushrooms Trans?*, an interesting and provocative discussion about what mushrooms mean.

<https://www.youtube.com/live/3elaXOA1P44?si=xgSfds0iMJr0iD-q>

🌟 <https://eris.orbific.com/163>

<https://www.mycomanchester.com/>

🌟 <https://eris.orbific.com/164>

🏠 A Magical Story

Dave Lee did a short interview with Bernhard Reicher about the most influential story of his childhood.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jP1ob3yJtfk>

🌟 <https://eris.orbific.com/165>

🏠 The Map is Not the Territory

Dolly Rae Star has a youtube channel with videos about “Radical Undoing, Qigong and other experiments and explorations”

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCttVabtIBXC-VkLbNPeOI3Q>

🌟 <https://eris.orbific.com/45>

Dolly also has a patreon that offers more in-depth work:

<https://patreon.com/MapIsNotTheTerritory>

🌟 <https://eris.orbific.com/204>

🏠 Blank Badge

Initially formed through a shared love of the Invisibles comic, *Blank Badge* produced a number of films over the past year, including a one-minute documentary about their work for a Northampton Arts Lab compilation.

One minute documentary (extended 1:23 cut)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ftlhxb5VLrQ>

🌟 <https://eris.orbific.com/158>

The Intervention:

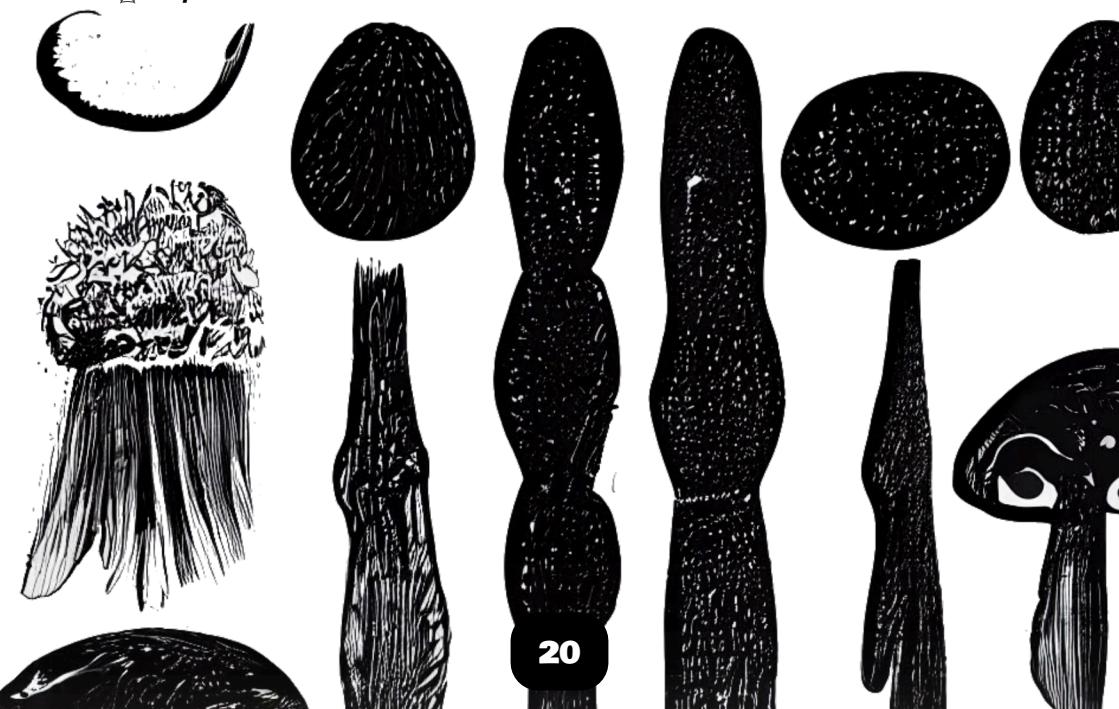
<https://vimeo.com/839552527>

🌟 <https://eris.orbific.com/159>

Jack in the Green:

<https://vimeo.com/824174809>

🌟 <https://eris.orbific.com/160>



🔮 My Magical Thing

Julian Vayne continues his long-running series *My Magical Thing*, where he talks to members of the magical community about the items they work with. The series included Jon Harris last year and has recently featured both Anwen and Ru Callendar.

Anwen: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=POzfnclP8M>

🔮 <https://eris.orbific.com/162>

Ru: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fyUn4EbdRiY>

🔮 <https://eris.orbific.com/163>

🔮 Illuminatus! play Documentary

In November, footage was briefly released from a new documentary about the Illuminatus play and Liverpool School of Language, Music, Dream and Pun. These clips were from a forthcoming documentary by Scottish director Grant McPhee. Few details have been released, but we're looking forward to hearing more about this project.

<http://www.rawillumination.net/2023/11/movie-in-works-about-illuminatus-play.html>

🔮 <https://eris.orbific.com/166>









🎵 **Blood Fruit**

MAP 71 released their sixth album, *Blood Fruit* in May. The launch took place in Brighton's legendary Prince Albert, with support from tap-dancing experimental indie duo *Nylon Prawn*, and stern industrial sex goths *Massive Luxury Overdose*.

<https://map71.bandcamp.com/album/blood-fruit>

🎧 <https://eris.orbific.com/167>

🎵 **Eight Musics for Eight Magicks**

Earlier this year Dave Lee and some musical-magical friends made an album, *Eight Musics for Eight Magicks*. This is a suite of musical compositions with words, designed and crafted to facilitate a powerful experience of each of the Eight Colours of Magick. You can listen to samples here:

<https://davelee1.bandcamp.com/album/8-musics-for-8-magicks>

🎧 <https://eris.orbific.com/168>

🎵 **The Hurdy Gurdy Song**

Local Psychos – aka Jimmy Cauty and Jem Finer – produced *The Hurdy Gurdy Song*, described as “mad, heretical, barely-controlled hurdy-gurdy ‘acid house barn dance’ music”. This single was released by Heavenly records on May 1st, and launched with a procession in a Sussex field near Lewes, culminating in the dedication of a two and a half tonne standing stone. The single’s music was “embedded” into the stone.

<https://localpsychoandthehurdy-gurdyorchestra.bandcamp.com/album/the-hurdy-gurdy-song-remixes>

🎧 <https://eris.orbific.com/169>

🎵 **The Space Between Numbers**

The Space Between Numbers is a collaboration between Hannah Davidson & Will Humphreys (aka *Mrs Jynx* and *Makirikur*). They have released a number of EPs over the past year:

<https://mrsjynx1.bandcamp.com/>

🎧 <https://eris.orbific.com/173>

🏠 Orange Head

Legendary band *Black Grape* have released a new album on DGAFF Recordings. The band, featuring Shaun Ryder and Kermit Leveridge, started out in the 90s and this is their fourth record. It features the singles *Milk* and *Pimp Wars*.

🏠 Super-connected

Last year Tim Arnold released a feature-length film about social media, starring Dixie McDevitt and Kate Alderton. The full album was released on May 5th this year, which kicked off a brief tussle with Apple, after the record's digital distributor objected to the track *A Commercial Break*, which was a spoof advert featuring Stephen Fry, mocking the ways in which digital streams insert adverts into our lives. Apple Music did not release the track until after an open letter was sent questioning this omission.

<https://timarnold.bandcamp.com/album/super-connected-2023>

🏠 <https://eris.orbific.com/170>

The album's live show was launched at the Roundhouse, adapted for the stage by Kate Alderton, and plans are afoot for more shows in 2024.

<https://superconnected.technology/superconnectedlive/>

🏠 <https://eris.orbific.com/171>

🏠 The Mechanical Child

Simon Indelicate's *Mechanical Child* album came out in September. Simon describes it as "Ritual Magic" intended to "welcome the birth of new Artificial Intelligences and a narrative fable designed to assist in their alignment with our will". The album tells a story using AI tools to supplement traditional instruments. It's a response to the negativity around artificial intelligence.

<https://mechanical-child.indelicates.xyz>

🏠 <https://eris.orbific.com/172>

🏠 Ginnungagap

The final editing stages for this zine were done to Steinsdotter's *Ginnungagap* mixtape (the title is the word for the primordial, magical void that existed before the world in Norse mythology). The record is atmospheric and playful, and features a remix of *Nightshift* by *Occult Hardware*, for which there's a video on youtube:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-oBhWdAOdVw>

🏠 <https://eris.orbific.com/205>

Ginnungagap mixtape:

<https://open.spotify.com/album/0eBleCOGUEOPC6kiE9I7Wt>

🏠 <https://eris.orbific.com/206>

⌘ Commoner's Choir by Jane C

While the Commoners choir did not accept the invitation to sing in the coronation, they have been busy this year. There was a song written for Giles Walker and his animatronics students:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dw1nql8z4cU&t=81s>

🏠 <https://eris.orbific.com/179>

Based in Leeds, the group organised the *Get Off Your Arse* festival of music and words at The Old Woollen in Farsley. The choir has also gigged as far away as Norwich and Rockaway Park. If you've not been to Rockaway Park, it's like the Mutoids went to visit Steptoe and Son's yard and decided to stay; they have arts, gigs, a banging vegan cafe and are recruiting members for their *Chapel of Unrest*

<https://www.rockawaypark.co.uk/>

🏠 <https://eris.orbific.com/180>

The choir also released a split single with Beans On Toast through Todmorden's Golden Lion Sounds label

<https://youtu.be/kUJy9Gc4III>

🏠 <https://eris.orbific.com/181>

Next year the Commoners are planning a 'Collaboration, Disruption, Adventure' project

<https://www.commonerschoir.com/>

🏠 <https://eris.orbific.com/182>

🏠 Shardcore

Shardcore has been using AI in his art since long before the current bandwagon got rolling. He regularly shares grotesque and impressive AI art on his twitter feed, investigating “the less-travelled areas of latent space in search of unexpected visual delights”. There is also a good compilation on his website, from dancing marginalia to political grotesques. Some of his AI video horrors have appeared on iPlayer for the show *The Skewer*.

<https://www.shardcore.org/>

🌟 <https://eris.orbific.com/177>

Shardcore has also released a lot of music this year, all of which you can find on his Shardcore2023 playlist. Crowspiracy is based around the idea of our digital world being controlled by crows. There's also the Shardonday project, which was based on a suggestion from John Higgs, that a powerful AI might not destroy the world, but “realise that its talents were way more useful when applied to the problem of creating gay disco records.”

<https://open.spotify.com/playlist/7FcpPRvnoqDj0o21abkF0q>

🌟 <https://eris.orbific.com/178>

Each of these releases has been accompanied by an AI video. While many people remain cynical about AI art, Shardcore shows how playful and subversive this can be, like with the gothic dolls of *See It, Say It, Slaughtered*.

🏠 Further To Go

Kate Alderton collected people's dreams of Claudia Boulton for *Bodge* magazine and wove them into a poem, *Here To Go*. This poem has been turned into a song for the *Toxteth Day of the Dead* album, and was also turned into a dreamscape film by John Horabin.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JHUENqDJxuQ>

🌟 <https://eris.orbific.com/190>

It was also turned into a soundscape called Further to Go by Occult Hardware

<https://soundcloud.com/kate-alderton-762112074/further-to-go>

🌟 <https://eris.orbific.com/191>

All related links are collected here:

<https://ditto.fm/here-to-go>

🌟 <https://eris.orbific.com/192>



🏠 The KLF

After many years of silence, this year brought a flurry of activity from the KLF. Firstly, they released an official collection of their films, *23 Seconds To Eternity*. The release was accompanied by a screening at the BFI, including a Q&A with director Bill Butt.

The British Library also acquired *The Acetate*, the only physical copy of a new version of 1987 (*What the Fuck Is Going On?*) by the Justified Ancients of Mu Mu. This new version was called *1987 (What the Fuck Was Going On?)* and credited to the Ice Cream Van. It is available to listen to in the British Library's Reading Room. The surviving master tapes from the KLF Communications record label were also donated to the library.

On top of that, the KLF announced a tour – although this had a twist. It was announced as occurring in 2323 in a host of impossible locations. There are 23 gigs to be played over 12 dates at 23 different places. Each day will feature a greatest hits setlist at an intimate venue and then a performance of *Chill Out* at an iconic location. The amount of travelling looks intense, but who knows what technology will be like in 300 year's time? The final performance at The People's Pyramid will feature both elements. Tickets are said to be released in the near future, but in the meantime a range of T-Shirts and posters are available for the tour.

<https://l-13.org/product-category/by-artist/the-jams/klf-communications/>

🏠 <https://eris.orbific.com/183>



🛏 **January 23 – Book of Horkos**

The *Book of Horkos* is a ritual that takes place twice a year. In Greek mythology, Horkos was the son of Eris and is responsible for punishing oath-breakers. The book is a huge leatherbound volume where pledgers – *Horkosians* – write down a goal for the next six months. If, six months later, any Horkosian fails to complete their pledge, the book must be burnt and all those within will suffer the punishment of Horkos. So far, the rituals have been successful and have resulted in a flurry of creation.

We don't have detailed updates from the Book of Horkos to share this year, but can confirm that the book did not burn.

🛏 **February 3rd-5th – Liverpool Arts Lab Bidston Retreat**

On a sandstone hill on the Wirral peninsula stands Bidston Observatory. Built in 1866 to study the stars, in the 19th century mariners across the empire would send their chronometers to Bidston for calibration. It was the ideal location for Liverpool Arts Lab to begin 2023 with a creative retreat. Eric from Cae Mabon joined them for 2 days of storytelling, exploration of the land, ritual, ceremony, lantern and mask-making.

🛏 **March 10 – Sow the Seeds**

At the start of this year the core organisers of Network 23 got together to discuss whether they were actually going to do something, with it being bloody 2023 and all.

Anwen and Lovebucket and Ben and Myra and Jamie all declared themselves to be very busy indeed. It seemed inconceivable when they looked back on the Festival of 2016, the 16 hr multi-dimensional training party of 2018, and, of course Castle Perilous, but they didn't know if they could bring themselves to do anything at all, knowing the time that things take.

Then Lovebucket declared, we could do one thing for each of the Discordian seasons of the year.

And the crew whooped. For if you can't do one thing, do five.

The first event in March was *Sow the Seeds*.

In parks. On lots. Public flower beds. In remote places. At City Hall. Wherever. Whenever. Or start a plantation in your closet (but read up on it first for that).

🌀 **Spring Equinox – The Pillars of Wonder**

The Spring Equinox was celebrated at Heligan Gardens. This was organised by the *Pillars of Wonder*, who are attempting to create rituals for significant points in the calendar, combined with specially produced musical compositions from Richard Norris, and banners featuring slogans and designs from Jamie Reid. The Pillars of Wonder continued to produce large outdoor events through the year, and you can see some pictures of the Spring event at the links below:

<https://www.brewingfolk.co/p/the-power-of-ritual>

🌀 <https://eris.orbific.com/185>

<https://www.caughtbytheriver.net/2023/03/lally-macbeth-spring-equinox/>

🌀 <https://eris.orbific.com/186>

“Rituals are like a laboratory. They’re places to experiment and explore. I don’t want to know what happens next. I don’t want to be told what I can and can’t do. Rituals should be about the strange and the unexpected. I want to be surprised. I want to be moved. Above all, I want to feel magic.” – **Matthew Shaw, Stone Club**

🌀 **April 23rd – Postcard Pilgrimage**

To mark the 4th anniversary of the Pilgrims’ Journey from Cerne to CERN, members of Liverpool Arts Lab convened at the manhole cover on Mathew Street. They chalked symbols from the pilgrimage, brought objects that had travelled on the bus together with items from Damanhur and Bollingen, making a ceremony in honour of that journey. Jay Ramsay’s poem *Postcards for Pilgrims* was read out, then vintage postcards were chosen as provocations for individual future adventures.

🌀 **May 6th – The Fool Picnic, Princes Park**

To work with energies in relation to the coronation of a new king in Britain, Liverpool Arts Lab organised a Fools’ Picnic at The Spiral Tree in Princes Park. The guest of honour was Ken Campbell’s Ken Dodd who, adorned with a gold paper crown, stood at the centre of the Damanhurian-twinning spiral walk. After lunch, and a splendid reading from Alfred Jarry’s *Ubu Roi* by Hubert and Hilary from *Surrealerpool*, they each took turns to speak truth to power by shouting at the ‘king’.

🌀 **May 23rd – The Journey – Onwards**

For the 4th successive year, Liverpool Arts Lab marked 23rd May with ceremony and ritual to deepen their connection with the land. This year the lab followed the course of the Lower Brook of the River Jordan through the city’s parks to flow out to



sea. Accompanied by a wandering minstrel, sites along the route were honoured with song and ceremony. A new Recycled Saint – Saint Lily Savage – was canonised at the Fairy Glen.

🏠 **June – Art & Soil**

Art and Soil took place in a disused underground car park in Sheffield. It was an installation of artworks from the last 7 years, by artist Anthony Bennett, inspired by complex neoteric science and magic. The opening night featured new performative works in collaboration with Sheffield Arts Lab and other outsider artists. Midway through the exhibition period, Sheffield Arts Lab led a night of shenanigans featuring a presentation outlining the History of British Arts Labs since the 1960's, a new performance by Lou Barnell, and a series of folk songs collated and sung by Rebecca Hearne.

🏠 **June 24 – A Show for Claudia**

For one week in June, a group of Claudia Boulton's friends and fellow theatre-makers lived and worked together to create a show from scratch, telling the story of her incredible, trailblazing life through live action, puppets, animation, film, music, dance and capering. Dramaturge Daisy Campbell and the gang wove together parts of Claudia's memoir play *The Woolf* (which she had been working on before her untimely death in 2021) with interview material, songs from her feminist punk cabaret group *Beryl and the Perils*, a Claudia-inspired dream-sourced song from Kate Alderton, and a table top reading remix from Jaqueline Hague. Her niece Candida Benson read one of Claudia's poems, whilst The Great Imagining's Deborah Curtis read an extract on changing mindsets to move towards a greener future (one of Claudia's major passions). The riotous fashion show finale featured clothes from Claudia's extensive cosmic costume collection, which Daisy hopes to preserve by building a 'Clauderobe' in her garden, along with Claudia's books and papers for future generations of cosmic thespians.

For one glorious, potty and poignant week we all got to live together in Claudia World. The actor, director, writer, activist, Discordian Pope, Peril, earthly embodiment of the goddess Eris and undeniably glorious Force of Nature is much missed. *All Hail Disclaudia!*

Michelle Olley

🏠 **July 1 – The Spirit of Westgate**

Under the auspices of a government-funded 'stormtroops of gentrification' artist's residency, performer, threadbare philosopher and bargain-bin psychogeographer Jonny Fluffypunk instead devised (in collaboration with residents from the local sink estate) an ad-hoc 'performative ritual' honouring the wayward Spirit of the ancient Westgate district of Gloucester. Inspired by events of 1907 – when a lion killed its would-be tamer in the bowels of what's now the local Poundstretcher – the residency culminated on July 1st in the part-hijack of an official city arts event. Residents, clad in robes, foliage and sharpened horns, pushing a blinged-up pram full of 'holy relics' and holding aloft a lion fabricated from purloined estate agent

boards, processed the district, honouring in soapbox poetry the 'holy aspects' of the Spirit (Euphoria, Debauchery, Love, Kindness, Aggro, and The Cracks Where the Light Gets In) with the aid of a megaphone, local drunks, and a random mob of steampunks. Instructions for re-enacting the ritual, together with writings from the residency, were later published as a 'sort-of guidebook'.

In 2023, Jonny also performed his show *If We Just Keep Going, We Will Get There In The End*, which described a 'pilgrimage' from Hackney Wick to the Chiltern Hills via Beckton sewage treatment works, echoing his parents' 1960s escape from the East End to outer suburbia, accompanied by a cloth effigy of his childhood dog, and at one point sleeping on an Uxbridge roundabout.

<https://jonnyfluffypunk.co.uk>

★ <https://eris.orbific.com/193>

🏠 **July 7-9 Sentry 23**

The 2nd of the Notwork 23 events was *Sentry 23*, a gathering at the Sentry Stone Circle near Northallerton.

No one has died. No one has been born. No one is getting married. The sun and planets are not in alignment. There is no line-up, no running order, and (as Terence McKenna always knew), nobody is in control. This is an invitation for the tribes to gather, under the stars, around a fire, to bring what they'd like to see, and see what that brings.

Sentry 23 was anarchistic, in all the best senses of the word. People brought art, music, poetry and espresso martinis to share. There was also a live recording of a *Lost Doctor* episode in the stone circle.

🏠 **July 23rd – Maybe Day**

Maybe Day is an online event, "the annual holiday for fans of Robert Anton Wilson", organised by Bobby Campbell. This year was the 50th anniversary of July 23, 1973, when RAW thought that, just maybe, he had been contracted by beings from Sirius, an incident that is part of the narrative of *Cosmic Trigger*. The Maybe Day website contains links to video, audio and articles produced for the event.

<https://maybeday.net/2023.html>

★ <https://eris.orbific.com/187>

🏠 **July 23rd – The Book of Horkos**

The book did not burn.

🏠 **July 27th-30th – The Transit of Venus**

An episode of the *Lost Doctor* was recorded at Bidston Observatory. Liverpool Arts Lab were joined by special guests including Andy Gell, Lisa Lovebucket, Lee Ravitz, Tom Baker. Learn more about this project in the *Lost Doctor* section.





♠ **August 8th – Death of Jamie Reid**

Jamie Reid died at the age of 76. He was best known for the cover of the Sex Pistol's single *God Save the Queen*. His artwork explored nature, ritual, symbols and magic. His final major piece was sowing a meadow at Heligan in Cornwall with the shape of his OVA sigil, which combines the A for Anarchy, V for Victory and O for Compassion. This field has been the site of several events and processions.

♠ **September 9th – Quatermass**

On 9th September 2023 There was a performance of classic radio drama *The Quatermass Experiment* at Alexandra Palace Theatre, the same building from where the show was first transmitted. Produced by Jon Dear with Hermetic Arts, the event featured Mark Gatiss as Professor Bernard Quatermass and Alice Lowe as the assistant.

♠ **September 14th-17th – Fool Power Residency**

Activist clown teacher Robyn Hambrook came to Bidston to run a 4-day deep dive into all things clown. 14 fools gathered to play games, discuss clown activism and devise short pieces. A day was spent in Liverpool City centre where, after breaking up a fight, people worked in small groups to play with and amongst the people (it turns out that Liverpool is already full of Fool Power!). The following day the Arts Lab created ensemble pieces in New Brighton and were met with warm delight and laughter.

♠ **September 29th – Hotdog 2**

On September 29th, the Rose Hill in Brighton hosted a full-on discordian celebration, with *Hot Dog 2: Let's Make It A Hero Sandwich*. This was the 4th of Notwork 23's 2023 events and featured Kermit Leveridge (of *Black Grape* and the *Ruthless Rap Assassins*), Richard Norris, Daisy Campbell, Tom Baker – the Discordian Accordionist, God's Teeth & The Interstellar Tropics, Thug Witches featuring Puppet Alan Watts, Omar Ibrahim and the Heat Goes On DJs.

♠ **October/November: To Fly Out in the Heat of Day**

Lou Barnell performed in Derry, Belfast, Athens and Newcastle, wearing a sound-material sculpture and instrument using reusable thermoplastic, silicone and breakthrough electromyography sensors, to create a body-sonic score which explores sound and movement as ways to re-orientate marginalised bodies in alienating worlds. Lou uses dreams, stories of ancestors and performative actions as mechanisms to forge ourselves anew. The performance will be coming to Theatre Deli, Sheffield in February 2024.

<https://loubarnell.co.uk/TO-FLY-OUT-IN-THE-HEAT-OF-DAY>

☆ <http://eris.orbific.com/212>

🕯 **October 8th – The first Serendipitous Stroll**

An aimless wandering tour of discovery in the Wavertree district of Liverpool co-organised by Liverpool Arts Lab and Surrealerpool.

🕯 **November 9 – Death of Antero Ali**

Antero Ali, author of books including *Angel Tech*, was diagnosed with Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma last year. He chose to avoid chemotherapy and died on 9th November. Before passing, he released a number of new books, and did several interviews, including a final one with Jason Louv.

<https://jasonlouv.libsyn.com/ep-143-antero-ali-on-the-art-of-dying>

🌟 <https://eris.orbific.com/135>

🕯 **November 10 – PIGS!**

Bang Crosby's play *PIGS!* was performed at London's cockpit theatre. *PIGS!* is "the story of John, a child butcher grown up and finally sensing the horror of his brutal loveless life as a live-in abattoir executioner". The play was adapted and directed by Roddy Mcdevitt.

🕯 **November 23 – Toxteth Day of the Dead**

The 2023 Toxteth Day of the Dead was named *The Crossing*. It was a spectacular event, with the People's Pyramid being taken from Toxteth via ferry to its new home in Birkenhead.

For those who don't know – when the KLF returned in 2017 they announced that they were setting up as undertakers. They established a process called MuMufication where 23g of a person's cremated remains could be fired in a brick and laid in the People's Pyramid. The pyramid is planned to contain 34,592 bricks and will stand 23 feet high. The project is expected to take hundreds of years to complete.

It's hard to give a complete summary of what went on, and everyone who attended will have their own stories. The day started with the Skool of Death at the Florrie in Toxteth. People worked on various preparations for the day, making banners and decorating coffins. There was also a band performing a live cover of the KLF's Chill Out album. Stone Klub attended, discussing how traditions are established. Delicious Tocky Tarts were offered to all.

A little before six, a crowd gathered at Pier Head for a Pledging Rite, then the People's Pyramid was taken on a ferry across the Mersey. This silent crossing was a powerful moment, as the tannoy announced the names of those being added to the pyramid. A procession through the docks then took the Pyramid to *Future Yard* where the bricklaying ceremony took place. Twenty bricks were added to the growing structure.

🏠 Horseplay

Brighton's Horseplay continues to provide a home for performance and spoken word. As ever "Horseplay rather prides itself on being word of mouth and not ever being listed or advertised, besides 'a desultory presence' on FB" – which can be a problem on funding applications. But you can always rely on it happening the last Thursday of the month, Black Dove, 74 St James St, Kemptown, Brighton: 8pm, free.



🏠 Leeds Little Free Library / Jane C

Jane C has been organising Leeds Little Free Libraries for a few years, since the founder, an old friend of hers, died of breast cancer. This year they put up the 100th and there are more to come. Basically they're handmade cabinets painted by local artists, all of whom are paid properly. These cabinets are then put out in gardens, streets and parks, for people to exchange books. 'A free flowing sharing of books and the ideas within'.

Jane has her own LLFL with a design based on a trip to the Isle of Lewis, including Callanish stone circle, and is slowly rereading then giving away her collection of sci-fi, RAW and other favourite books. The best book treasure she found in hers this year is *Tomorrow and Tomorrow and Tomorrow*.

In a quirk of fate, Jane now has breast cancer and is in the midst of passing on the project admin to concentrate on avoiding stress and doing whatever takes her fancy. She's off to The Crossing in November to investigate the pyramid of MuMu.

<https://www.facebook.com/leedslittlefreelibrary>

🏠 <https://eris.orbific.com/194>

<https://www.instagram.com/leedslittlefreelibrary/>

🏠 <https://eris.orbific.com/195>

<https://www.mumufication.com/ceremony/the-krossing/>

🏠 <https://eris.orbific.com/196>



In 2023 it became harder to promote anything on social media, with most platforms penalising links outside of their walled gardens. This means it is increasingly difficult to announce events and new releases. The most reliable way to keep in touch is now email newsletters. Hosts such as *Substack* and *MailChimp* make it easy to get going, as well as providing access to your subscriber list so you can move if you need to.

Email newsletters don't need a huge audience – a small, intimate announcement a couple of times a year is just as important as the huge lists. Below are some of our favourite newsletters – let us know of any we've missed for next year.

🏠 Stone Club

Stone Club is like one of the clubs that used to be in children's comics – but with the newsletters coming through substack rather than the post. Sign up for a membership card and stickers, and feel part of a community of people who really, really like standing stones. The group has also put on some interesting events, including welcoming the solstice at the Glastonbury Festival.

<https://stoneclub.rocks/join>

🌟 <https://eris.orbific.com/197>

🏠 Burning Shore

Erik Davis is the author of *High Weirdness: Drugs, Esoterica, and Visionary Experience in the Seventies*, which explored the works of Philip K. Dick, Terence McKenna, and Robert Anton Wilson. He also wrote 90s classic *TechGnosis* and sends out a regular email about “alternative religion, media, the popular imagination, and the cultural history of California”.

<https://www.burningshore.com/>

🌟 <https://eris.orbific.com/198>

🏠 David Bramwell

David Bramwell has a regular mailing list with updates on his work as well as new releases from his band *Oddfellow's Casino*

<https://www.drbramwell.com/newsletter>

🏠 <https://eris.orbific.com/49>

🏠 James Burt

James writes a weekly email of his short stories. For the last four years he has been working on a massive short story collection set along the South Downs Way, which features fairies, strange magic and true stories about The Devil.

<https://microfictions.substack.com/>

🏠 <https://eris.orbific.com/199>

🏠 Hubert Huzzah Patreon

sur Hubert Huzzah (postmortuarist) has a patreon which releases an “endless stream of unconsciousness”, including “Angry Letters To Editors, implausible narratives, idiolectic bureaucracy, accidental biographies, and sundry other written outbursts”

https://patreon.com/Hubert_Huzzah

🏠 <https://eris.orbific.com/200>

🏠 Dave Lee Newsletter

Chaos Magician Dave Lee also runs a regular newsletter, which is a personal sampling of what's happening in magick, Discordia and psychedelia and comes out 5-6 times a year. You can read back issues and sign up via:

<https://linktr.ee/david23lee>

🏠 <https://eris.orbific.com/201>

<https://chaotopia.us11.list-manage.com/subscribe?u=bad98b0a038112e56579f4fba&id=117224d42b>

🏠 <https://eris.orbific.com/53>

🏠 The Mycelium Newsletter

Compiled by Michelle Olley, the Mycelium Newsletter is rare but essential reading for things that are happening on the network. Sign up and wait for announcements.

<https://the-mycelium.us3.list-manage.com>

🏠 <https://eris.orbific.com/54>

🏠 Paul Watson

Painter Paul Watson's newsletter gives updates on his *Acid Renaissance* project, as well as his thoughts on underground culture.

<https://lazaruscorporation.us2.list-manage.com/subscribe?u=d55bd35a272bf5fc5b4ec09b9&id=5a38373424>

🏠 <https://eris.orbific.com/58>



⚡ Arthur Pendragon

King Arthur Pendragon sends regular emails about his ongoing efforts to resist English Heritage (referred to as *English Heretics*), to fight the Stonehenge Tunnel plans and to keep his *Iron Steed* on the road. He is also gathering funds to stand in the next general election.

<https://arthurpendragon.substack.com/>

★ <https://eris.orbific.com/55>

⚡ The Urban Spaceman

Ben has spent several months working on his forthcoming novel set in 1960s California, but has now returned to *The Urban Spacemen*. It's a friendly, laid back email, and always good to see it.

<https://bengraham23.substack.com/>

★ <https://eris.orbific.com/119>

⚡ Cat Vincent

It's been a quiet year on Cat Vincent's mailing list *Caterwauling*, but things are bubbling under the surface, so we suggest to sign up and be patient. In the meantime, Cat is active on Bluesky as [catvincent.bsky.social](https://bsky.app/profile/catvincent.bsky.social)

<https://tinyletter.com/CatVincent>

★ <https://eris.orbific.com/57>

⚡ Hookland County Chronicle

Following Elon Musk's purchase of twitter, *Hookland* has set up new homes on Bluesky and substack where David Southwell continues to send out folklore from the mythical county.

<https://hookland.substack.com>

★ <https://eris.orbific.com/52>

⚡ Airy Fairy

Airy Fairy is an essential part of the mycelium network. As well as the shop they put on performances, exhibitions and events. They also have mail order. You can keep up to date with their latest activities on their newsletter. In conjunction with *The Sheffield Goddess Temple*, Airy Fairy holds a ritual for each of the 8 pagan festivals celebrated by many paths from Druidry to Chaos Magic.

<https://www.airyfairy.org/index.php?route=account/newsletter>

★ <https://eris.orbific.com/48>

⚡ The Mycoleum Mind

Short. Sometimes sweet. Thoughts.

<https://peakrill.substack.com/>

★ <https://eris.orbific.com/213>



🏠 John Higgs's Octannual Manual

Every six weeks, aligned with the Celtic Calendar, John Higgs sends out his Octannual Manual email. As well as the latest news on his writing and appearances, John also includes interesting reflections on current events and mycelic announcements.

<https://johnhiggs.substack.com/>

🌟 <https://eris.orbific.com/51>



This is an extract from ‘Sermon for the Mycelium’

That NHS spending is predicated on a strong economy
seems like basic common sense to the majority of British people.
Universal healthcare might be a cherished right
secured after the sacrifices of the war generation.
But that right still has a cost attached to it.
Last year it was 182 billion pounds.

And what about our other rights?

In 1951, the UK helped draft the
European Convention on Human Rights.
I don't know if anyone's ever added up
how much those rights have cost us
but it must be a truly astronomical figure.
Consider what's caught the headlines this year -
the cost of our right to protest.

As Daily Mail readers will know
all those slow marching retired rectors
and trustafarian troublemakers
cost the Great British public
- the Great, honest, hardworking, decent, fair-minded British public, no less -
over a million pounds a week.

Rights are **really** expensive!

So imagine you're in control of the government's purse strings.
On the one hand you want to encourage economic growth
- you want the money you spend, to make money.
And on the other, you want to cut back on unproductive expenditure
- you want to stop spending money on anything
that doesn't contribute to economic growth, or worse still,
actually works against it.

With this as our mindset many **rights** could very easily
start to look like **luxuries** we can't afford.

And when that happens,
when sacred and inviolable principles mutate into costs,
when fundamental rights become numbers on a balance sheet
then something is shifting our moral consciousness.

We can see the social symptoms of this shift in
the erosion of our right to protest,
the undermining of the social provision of care,
and in the harsh treatment of our most vulnerable citizens.

by Jonathan Harris High Priest of Church of Burn

The effect of the shift on our institutions of governance is to make corporate, market-orientated, and profit-driven what should be sacred, duty-bound, and honourably discharged.

Financialisation is a word coined by academics to describe the process by which a rationality of accumulation, speculation, money and finance embeds itself within institutions and our everyday lives.

It's basically the secular version of 'possession by Mammon'.

No surprise then that our current PM comes from the heart of the beast.
From Investment Banking, Hedge Fund management and the 'so called' Industry of Finance.

But it's not Sunak who has carved out the **space** he so neatly fills.

It **is** financialisation. It **is** Mammon.

It **is** the system of systems,
the vast and immense, interwoven, interacting,
multivariate, multidimensional
dominion of dollars that is carving out
that **same space__everywhere**.

The fecundity of money is fast becoming
the Holy Grail, the Divine source
the shining Sunyata,
__from which all else flows.

And ultimately,
the consecration of this financialized first principle
as the 'obvious' truth of practical governance,
the assimilation of calculative self-interest
to the 'common sense' judgements of ordinary people,
the conflation of the sacred and the financial
to form the moral basis of our collective existence
ultimately, __ultimately,
these create the conditions
where we no longer make weapons to fight wars,
but instead create wars to sell weapons.



Read the full sermon at <https://bit.ly/47OpruP>



Joining Liverpool Arts Lab

by Cosmic

Wandering into the clearing in the thicket of art in Liverpool made by LAL began for me on the 13th June 2023 when I noticed the listing for Art Lab meetings every second Tuesday of the month upon the events listing page of the Unitarian church.

Here I am just 16 weeks later having already experienced a large volume of art and events organised by this group. Difficult to take it all in, true. I was whisked off to Bidston to have my love of the observatory renewed.

Standing in as Luna during a script audio recording of the new *Lost Doctor* episode to be released Christmas 2023 was itself a dream come true.

Next came my first visit to Granby St market and the revelation that is *Bodge*, the most excellent publication.

My recent joining of groups was part of a cPTSD overcoming-phobias recovery plan; could I have found a better group for this? My previously non-existent ability to function as part of a group now exists.

A *Fool Power Residency* again at Bidston, which led to me also taking part in the *SSTRAPP Sonic Somatic* weekend. This meant I missed Jamie Reid's funeral, my sadness breaking out into a clown faced Ova painting on my kitchen wall.

Just observing all the artist members of LAL coming together to create not only art but events has been fascinating.

Thank you, LAL

<https://instagram.com/cosmicjomitch>

🌟 <https://eris.orbific.com/188>

<https://thedomitchjournals.substack.com/>

🌟 <https://eris.orbific.com/189>



From *The Future Starts Here* by John Higgs

Mycelium is like the root system of fungus. It's a network of white fungal threads that runs underground through the soil. The network can be tiny, or it can spread for hundreds of miles and live for thousands of years. If you get sufficient mycelial threads crossing each other, then a mushroom can pop up above the surface.

Think of the mushroom that comes up above ground as the obvious cultural thing that occurs, which the mainstream culture can see. It might be in the form of a particular artist or a single book or play or a piece of music or a new genre, or whatever it is – whatever cultural phenomenon that the world above can see, that's the mushroom. But the mushroom is not where you should put your focus. That mushroom only occurs because of all of these threads underground created by highly motivated people. They're not motivated by the usual motivations of fame or success or money or whatever. They are people who are following some compulsion and they don't really know where it's leading, but they're moving ahead with it anyway. In that process they're crossing paths with lots of other people who are similarly working away, not really caring if the above world sees it or not, because that's not what it's about.



